

## The Touch of a Keyboard Chief Superintendent Amos Be'er - Israel Police Headquarters

Police investigators still need to take notes at a crime scene and stagger into court with boxes full of files, but Israel Police Chief Superintendent Amos Be'er is trying to make the investigator's life a bit easier. "We will soon see the day when they will come into court with only a laptop and a disk, explains Be'er.

Special software being developed at Israel Police Headquarters will enable interviews with witnesses and suspects to be available in the courtroom as well as any graph, map or other data. Chief Superintendent Be'er is in charge of the ongoing computerization revolution that the Israel Police has been pushing for the last decade. He is known at Israel National Police Headquarters for his determination as well as his extraordinary ability to complete a project. He is also admired for his hard work despite the severe visual handicap with which he was born.

Amos Be'er was born in Nahariya close to Israel's northern border 45 years ago, and his blindness was diagnosed within months. Despite the boy's precocious nature, even he couldn't absorb too much in a classroom without either a braille or tape recorder. At age eight, he was sent to the boarding facility at the Jewish Institute for the Blind, and his real education started. "I still remember the trauma of being separated from my family, but very quickly I jumped into

school activities," he says. "I grew up with my classmates that became like family to me."

Be'er remembers the Institute as a hothouse for growth and development. "We were encouraged to succeed and believe in ourselves," he emphasizes, and after high school graduation, Be'er studied in university and then moved into the field of computer technology at Hadassah College. After graduation, Be'er did not have an easy time finding a job, but he was once featured on a radio program, and a representative of the police heard him and agreed to an interview. Be'er has now served in the police since 1979, and he has continued learning, completing his B.A. and masters degree in Criminology.

Married to Aliza who also works for the Israel Police, the Be'ers have three children. Despite his harried schedule, Be'er still finds it important today to serve on the Institute's Board of Directors. He also enjoys a carpentry class that he takes at the community center afternoon program at the Institute. Be'er hopes to contribute to Israel's blind and visually impaired in many areas. He says that he can perhaps be of assistance with his



Amos Be'er

knowledge of computers, by helping secure contributions and by working as a liaison with government offices.

"My best advice to a blind or visually handicapped person is that he has to believe in himself," acknowledges Be'er. "The word 'no' should not be part of his vocabulary, and he or she should continue pushing forward to realize their special potential." A proud graduate of the Institute, Amos Be'er is a role model today for the partially sighted and blind and a successful person to be emulated.

## One of the Institute's Outstanding Volunteers - Dorit Levy

Perhaps her pupils can't see her dancing eyes or contagious smile with their eyes, but they can see and feel Dorit's radiant personality in other ways. Dorit Levy has been a part of the Institute for three years as a dedicated volunteer in the art department. Her lack of experience with the blind has been overcome by love and determination.

"Dorit doesn't read school records and she is not interested in a child's limitations, explains art instructor Rachel Kastenboim. "Rather than approaching the children as a therapist, she simply has love to offer as well as high expectations, and the students eagerly respond to her." Kastenboim is glad to have such a warm volunteer to help her out or work individually with a child.



Dorit Levy helps students with art projects

Levy originally worked in a family food business, but when she decided to close it several years ago, she was not ready to retire, and she called the Institute to volunteer.

Although Levy was accepted halfheartedly, the staff at the Institute did not realize how serious she was about giving of her talents and her self. A real dynamo, Levy kept on coming back to the Institute, working with individual students or small groups. Today, she is like another staff member to pupils as well as educators. Levy has helped to transfer her love and talent in ceramics to the pupils while helping them to progress and develop.

"The children at the Institute are a bright ray of sunshine," smiles Levy. In addition to the time she dedicates to the Institute, Levy also works on her own art in sculpture with clay and wood.